

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] UHMWPE (GUR 4150; Ticona LLC) was combined with precipitated silica (WB-37™; PPG Industries, Inc.), process oil, antioxidant, and lubricant in a batch mixer to form a mixture that was subsequently fed to a counter-rotating twin screw extruder operating at a melt temperature of approximately 215° C. Additional process oil was added in-line to bring the final oil content to between about 60 weight percent and about 65 weight percent. The resultant melt was passed through a sheet die into a ~~calendar~~ calender, in which the ~~calendar~~ calender gap was used to control the extrudate thickness. The oil-filled sheet was subsequently extracted with trichloroethylene and dried to form the final separator. The resultant separator material had a silica-to-polyethylene weight ratio of about 2.5:1.

Replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] Because the separator web is microporous, a portion of the antioxidant coating solution wicks into the interior of the web such that antioxidant is present on the web surface and in the interior of the separator web. For example, more antioxidant may be present on the surface of the web and less antioxidant may be present in the interior of the web. The antioxidant coating solution is preferably of a concentration that provides sufficient wicking into the separator web during application and that provides the desired antioxidation protection for the separator web after drying. For example, when the antioxidant is Irganox 1010 and the extraction solvent is trichlorethylene, a 5-50% (w/v) solution of Irganox 1010 in trichlorethylene is preferred. A separator web having a composition as set forth in Table 1 with a porosity of 52.7% and a density of 0.63g/cc gives an antioxidant-to-UHMWPE weight ratio of between about 0.17 and 1.71 for the 5-50% (w/v) antioxidant range.